I. STATE Maryland

county Baltimore

town Lutherville Vicinity

STREET NO. 313 Morris Avenue

original owner Dr. J. G. Morris original use residence present owner John Waters present use residence wall construction Stone no. of stories 12

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

2. NAME Oak Grove

DATE OR PERIOD 1852

STYLE Gothic Revival

ARCHITECT

BUILDER Dr. John G. Morris

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

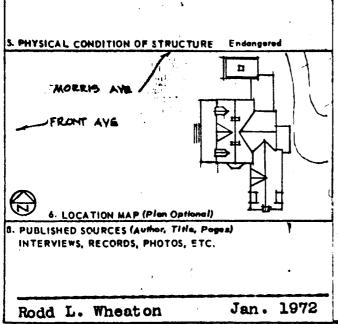
OPEN TO PUBLIC

This house, the finest example of the Cothic Revival in the village, was built by the founder of Lutherville and the Female Seminary as his own residence. It began as a symmetrical house, "T" shaped in plan, and was gradually expanded as the Morris family grew. The first addition, connected directly to the original house, was a two story wing extending to the south. A summer kitchen, added later to the north, was connected by a breezeway, now enclosed.

The original house, constructed of stone and sheathed in narrow, flush, vertical siding, indicates the mid-nineteenth century interest in the Gothic Revival style as being suitable for the residence of a clergyman.

Its front facade is symmetrical with a central gable, lower than the main roof ridge, flanked by gabled dormer windows which extend below the eaves of the main roof and project beyond the walling with their sills supported on brackets with pendants. The dormers have pairs of three light casement sash like the casements of the central gable which open inward.

Openwork scalloped verge boards, flush with the facia boards of the rakes, ornament the front central gable with its apex finial, the dormer gables and the end gables of the side elevations.





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A pair of corbeled cap chimneys at the roof ridge flank the central gable.

At the first floor level pairs of elongated casements, or French doors, flank the front entry with its paneled, double doors. Its sidolights, like the windows, have full length, paneled shutters. All open onto the one story front porch, the length of the main house. The shed roof of the porch is supported on champhered columns which have corner brackets at the eave facia. The columns flanking the front steps are doubled with an "X" replacing the center brackets.

The south elevation of the main house has an oriel type bay window with an elongated pair of casements being flanked by similar single casements at each angled elevation. Above a moulded mullion, square quatrefoil panels echo the casement mullion spacing. At the second floor level a typical casement window with louvered blinds has above it a cast iron roundel attic vent seen in the apexes of the highest gables including the east facade with its large single gable having one second floor window and a low stair landing window above a simplified, shortened version of the front porch. Two windows with casements flank the sidelighted, double doored entrance, which opens

This rear facade, now the main entrance from the driveway, is even more noticably asymmetrical with the addition of the two story, gabled wing to the south and is characterized at the original front facade with an off center attic gable, perpendicular to the main roof slope, over two window bays balanced by a shed roofed dormer which extends well below the eaves. The windows of this wing are double hung, sliding sash with a wide center muntin imitating the casements of the older house. Louvered blinds are hung awkwardly at the second floor wing windows within the gable, while paneled shutters are hung at the first floor windows.

The opposite wing is a two story block with a shallow sloped shed roof which provides a full second floor area. The highly architectural front modillioned cornice and the two vertical bays suggest a misplaced urban, row house. Six over six sash fill the window openings.

In plan there are two rooms, the parlour and dining room, on either side of the central hall at the front of the original house. The hall extends to the rear entrance between the kitchen and stair hall in the stem of the "T" shape.

Like several Gothic Revival houses in this region, the interior woodwork is of simplified classic revival detail. All the mantles are Greek Revival in character with those of the first floor being of marble with flat, unmoulded pilasters supporting unmoulded frieze sections and mantle sholfs. At the second floor of the main house fine "dog earred" architrave mantlepieces front the chimney breasts. The staircase has turned balusters, turned newels and a moulded rail.

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore
TOWNLutherville VICINITY Dist. VIII
STREET NO. 313 Morris Avenue

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE

WALL CONSTRUCTION

NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

BA-64

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DATE OR PERIOD 1852
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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OPEN TO PUBLIC

Victorian style summer house - vertical siding, decorative cornice, etc.

Built by Dr. John G. Morris, the founder of Lutherville, and the Lutherville Female Seminary.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endongered

Interior

Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

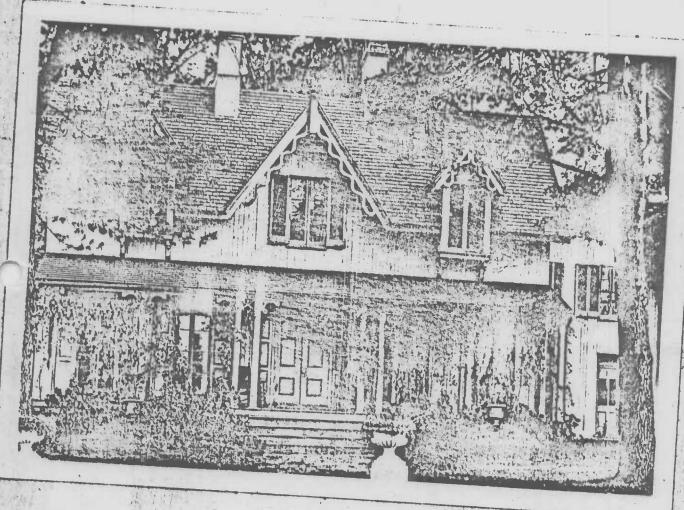
7. PHOTOGRAPH

PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE OF RECORD July 29, 1965

Oak Grove, 313 Morris Avenue, Sheet 3



An early view of Cak Grove, sirce 1916.